Import under OGL

*324. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have added 29 machine tool items to the list of import under open General Licence in the 1985-86 Import-Export Policy.

(b) whether these items are manufactured in the country also; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons for including such items in the OGL list?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These items have been placed on OGL vide Public Notice No. 77-ITC (PN)/85—88 dated 3-3-86, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. The reasons for including the said items in the OGL list is to begin the process of transition of regulation of imports through physical restriction to tariff as per the recommendation of the Committee on Trade Policy.

Retrenchment of Departmental Labour in FCI

*327.SHRI N. E. BALRAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have advised the Food Corporation of India to retrench its entire force of 6465 departmental labourers to bring about a drastic reduction in its handling cost; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) The Government have approved retrenchment of departmental labour of FCI working at major ports as the imports and exports operations of FCI have shrunk in size considerably and the Corporation has been incurring an expenditure of about Rs. 23 croroes every year towards payment of idle wages to this almost surplus labour.

Equal pay for equal work

†328-A. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though the Supeme Court has declared 'equal pay for equal work' as a fundamental right some three years ago, the Central Government have not yet taken any tangible steps in this direction; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of a similar nature is covered by the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. The Act provides that no employer shall pay to any worker, employed by him in an establishment or employment, remuneration, whether payable in cash or in kind, at rates less favourable than those at which remuneration is paid by him to workers of the opposite sex in such establishment or employment for the same work or work of a similar natue. As far as the Supreme Court order referred to in the question is concerned.

†Previously Starred Question 269, transferred from the 13th March, 1986.